



FOUNDATION FOR FAIR CONTRACTING
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TESTIMONY

**Raised Bill 593 AN ACT CONCERNING SEVERE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL
IMPAIRMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE.**

January 29, 2015

Honorable Senator Winfield, Honorable Representative Tercyak, and esteemed members of the Labor Committee:

The Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut ("FFC") submits this letter in support of Raised Bill 593 AN ACT CONCERNING SEVERE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE.

Unfortunately, it has become a reality that people may experience trauma while at work, and that traumatic experience may lead to mental or emotional distress and impairment. Police officers, fire fighters and first responders are obvious examples of those who work in high risk environments and who deserve to receive workers' compensation in the event of experiencing trauma while on the job.

In addition to amending the statute to provide these brave workers with workers' compensation for mental and emotional impairment suffered from a work related duty or experience, the FFC recommends that construction workers be added to this coverage.

According to the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 796 fatal injuries in the private construction sector in 2013, which "accounted for the highest number of fatal work injuries in any industry". Seven private construction fatalities took place in the state of CT, which also accounted for the highest number of fatal work injuries in any industry. (US DOL, 2014)

We encourage the committee to pass this bill, with the addition of construction workers, so that all those who experience emotional trauma on the job can receive the proper care that they need to be productive in the workforce.

Thank you,

Cindy Dubuque, MSW
Executive Director